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THE ROYAL SOCIETY

New President of the Royal Society

At the 288th Anniversary Meeting held today, Professor E.D. Adrian, O.M., was elected President of the Royal Society. Professor Adrian becomes President on his 61st birthday. He has held the Foulerton Research Professorship of the Royal Society and is Professor of Physiology in the University of Cambridge, where, except for his hospital work as a student, and service in World War I, he has worked since his student days. A pupil of the late Dr Keith Lucas, he has continued and amplified the work of that pioneer in the field of neurophysiology, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1932. He has held the office of Foreign Secretary to the Royal Society since 1946, and has also served as a member of Council for three years. and his election will give satisfaction to physiologists all over the world. He has been an outstanding member of the Physiological Society for many years, served on its committee for 11 years, acted as its Secretary for three years, and as Foreign Secretary for four years. He was Editor of the Journal of Physiology for 10 years. He was awarded the Order of Merit in 1942. Among his many distinctions may be mentioned the Royal Medal in 1934, the Copley Medal in 1946, the Croonian Lectureship in 1931, the Ferrier Lectureship in 1938, and the Baly Medal of the Royal College of Physicians in 1929.

His long series of published papers deals mostly with the properties of nerve fibres, and with investigations on the central nervous system. Most of the fundamental work in these fields today rests on the foundations of precise knowledge which he laid. The whole subject of Electroencephalography for example rests almost entirely on his fundamental investigations; he was largely responsible for the development of techniques by which the passage of the sensory impulses may be traced from the sensory nerve endings along their path to their final destination at the cerebral cortex.

As an expositor Adrian has marked ability to make his own research work comprehensible to non-specialists, and his communications are always charming models of modesty and lucidity. In his work he has the genius of employing the simplest possible technical methods, and of going direct to the heart of the problem; he is the antithesis of the obscurantist complexity which is today so prevalent in science. Although his research work lies mostly in one field, he has probably a wider knowledge of physiology today than any of his contemporaries, and can turn his hand, if need be, to any current techniques. His effectiveness as a speaker, and his charming and modest personality will make him an admirable and popular occupant of the Presidential chair.

EDITOR
1 DEC 1950
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, Dr Lee's Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford, was elected Foreign Secretary in succession to Professor E.D. Adrian, O.M.

The following Officers were re-elected for the ensuing year:

Treasurer - Sir Thomas Merton

Secretaries - Sir Edward Salisbury, C.B.E.
Sir David Brunt.

Other members of Council elected were:

Dr O.M.B. Bulman, Reader in Palaeozoology in the University of Cambridge.

Dr I. de Burgh Daly, Director, Institute of Animal Physiology, Babraham, Cambridgeshire.

Dr S.F. Dorey, C.B.E., Chief Surveyor, Lloyds Register of Shipping.

Professor F.G. Gregory, Professor of Plant Physiology at Imperial College of Science & Technology.

Mr P. Hall, Lecturer in Mathematics in the University of Cambridge.

Dr C.S. Hanes, Reader in Plant Biochemistry in the University of Cambridge, Director, Agricultural Research Council of Plant Biochemistry.

Professor R.P. Linstead, C.B.E., Professor of Organic Chemistry at Imperial College of Science & Technology.

Professor H.S.W. Massey, Quain Professor of Physics in the University of London.

Dr W.G. Penney, O.B.E., Chief Superintendent, Armament Research Development.

Professor F.E. Simon, C.B.E., Professor of Thermodynamics in the University of Oxford.

Professor W. Smith, Professor of Bacteriology in the University of London.

Sir George Thomson, Professor of Physics at Imperial College of Science & Technology.

Professor A.R. Todd, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Cambridge.

Dr V.B. Wigglesworth, Reader in Entomology in the University of Cambridge and Director, Agricultural Research Council Unit of Insect Physiology.

Professor F.G. Young, Sir William Dunn Professor of Biochemistry, Cambridge.

Professor J. Z. Young, Professor of Anatomy in the University of London.

D.C. MARTIN

Assistant Secretary

30 November 1950